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A-9859A PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re the Application of:

Casey K. Lee

Appln. No.: 10/779,873

Group Art Unit: 3732

Filed: February 18, 2004 Examiner: A. Reimers

For: INTERVERTEBRAL DISC AND NUCLEUS PROSTHESIS

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 05, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 15 of this paper.

Claims 36-37, 40, 45, 47-49, and 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

New Claim 77 and Claims 78-87 dependent therefrom are also characterized by an annulus having a cavity extending axially therethrough. These claims are therefore also distinguished from the Huang reference and are patentable over the Huang reference.

The basis for rejection of Claim 50 under

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is believed to have been removed by the above amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and discussion, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, in view of the allowability of Claim 33, an allowable claim generic to the non-elected species is present in the application. Accordingly, rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 41 and 59-76 is appropriate, and such rejoinder and allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to

Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16

and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit

any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time

is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully requested,

MWS:GWS:

Miles & Stockbridge P.C. 1751 Pinnacle Drive Suite 500 McLean, Virginia 22102-3833 (703) 903-9000

March 06, 2006

Mitchell W. Shapiro

Reg. No. 31,568

George W. Swenson Reg. No. 25,461